

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2635
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 1293

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, PARM, UNGA, SHUM, FI
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR LEONARD: CONSULTATIONS WITH
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: HELSINKI 1179,

1. SUMMARY. THE VISIT TO HELSINKI OF AMBASSADOR JAMES F. LEONARD TO ADDRESS THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENTS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL) PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATION AT THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY ON APRIL 26. IN A GENERAL REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS DURING THE MORNING SESSION OF CONSULTATIONS, THE FINNS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HEARING AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S ASSESSMENT OF THE GENERAL STATE OF US/USSR RELATIONS, THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE SALT TALKS AND CTB AND CW NEGOTIATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, CURRENT US ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED NATIONS, DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE
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EAST, AND AFRICAN PROBLEMS. THE FINNS, IN ADDITION TO EXCHANGING VIEWS ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT, DESCRIBED THE RECENT VISITS OF THE FINNISH PRIME MINISTER SORSA TO ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA AND FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER VAYRYNEN TO IRAQ. THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE CONSULTATIONS WAS DEVOTED TO A REVIEW OF ISSUES AND PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE FORTHCOMING SSOD. (NOTE: THIS MESSAGE WAS CLEARED WITH

AMBASSADOR LEONARD.) END SUMMARY.

2. CHAIRING THE FINNISH SIDE DURING THE CONSULTATIONS WAS UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, KEIJO KORHONEN. ALSO PARTICIPATING WAS THE AMBASSADOR OF THE FINNISH UN MISSION IN GENEVA, ESKO RAJAKOSKI, IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL OFFICIALS FROM THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. AMBASSADOR RIDGWAY CHAIRED THE US SIDE. ALSO PARTICIPATING, IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR LEONARD, WERE THE DCM AND THE EMBASSY'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COUNSELORS. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S REVIEW OF THE VARIOUS HOPEFUL AND DISTURBING ASPECTS OF THE COMPLEX UNITED STATES/SOVIET RELATIONSHIP, KORHONEN NOTED THAT FINLAND CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS RELATIONSHIP BUT IS A VERY INTERESTED AND CONCERNED OBSERVER. AMBASSADOR LEONARD NOTED THAT FINLAND HAD IN FACT MADE SEVERAL USEFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CTB AND CW NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH ITS SEISMIC AND CHEMICAL VERIFICATION RESEARCH. KORHONEN NOTED THAT FINLAND BELIEVES IT DOES HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN CERTAIN TECHNICAL QUESTIONS.

3. CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS, KORHONEN SAID THAT THE US APPROACH AT THE CSCE CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE SEEMED TO MAKE USE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN A POLEMIC
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WAY, COMMENTING THAT IT CANNOT REALLY BE EXPECTED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD CEDE CONTROL OVER MATTERS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. AMBASSADOR LEONARD POINTED OUT THAT UNITED STATES' POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE CSCE MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE US POLITICAL BACKGROUND. HE EMPHASIZED THE US ATTEMPTED TO TAKE AN EVENHANDED APPROACH ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT BELGRADE. HE NOTED THAT IN BROADER INTERNATIONAL FORA THE US HAS MANAGED TO AVOID APPEARING TO SINGLE OUT THE USSR ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. IN THE BROADER WORLD CONTEXT WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN AFRICAN, ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ARE ALSO DISCUSSED, THE SOVIETS UNDERSTAND THEY ARE NOT BEING SINGLED OUT. HOWEVER IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID THE CONCLUSION THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS ARE IN THE EASTERN COUNTRIES. KORHONEN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S PRAISE OF FINLAND'S ROLE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN THE UNITED NATIONS, SPECIFICALLY FINLAND'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IN UGANDA. KORHONEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FINLAND HAD RECEIVED SOME

CRITICISM CONCERNING ITS POSITION ON THIS ISSUE BUT
CONTINUES TO BE CONVINCED THAT ITS INITIATIVE ON THE
UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WAS THE RIGHT MOVE AT THE
RIGHT MOMENT.

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4. KORHONEN ASKED HOW STRONG THE US COMMITMENT IS
CURRENTLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION. HE
NOTED THAT US IDEALISM AND STRONG SUPPORT HAD BEEN
CRITICAL TO THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED NATIONS. HE
EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE IMAGE AND CREDIBILITY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE US APPEAR TO HAVE
DECLINED. HE FEARED THAT IF THE TREND CONTINUES
IT WOULD BE VERY DAMAGING BOTH TO THE UN AND TO THE
US ITSELF. AMBASSADOR LEONARD DISCUSSED THE FACTORS
THAT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO A DECLINE IN THE PRESTIGE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE EYES OF THE US PUBLIC
OVER THE YEARS SINCE 1946. HE ASSURED KORHONEN THAT
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT
TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND CONCLUDED THAT ON BALANCE THE IMAGE OF THE UN
IN THE US HAS BEGUN TO IMPROVE AGAIN.

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5. KORHONEN EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID THAT FINLAND IS FRANKLY BAFFLED BY THE POLICY OF THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. HE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT THE ISRAELIS MAY HAVE LET AN HISTORIC MOMENT PASS BY AND SAID HE IS AFRAID THE MOMENTUM FROM THE DADAT INITIATIVE AMY ALREADY HAVE BEEN LOST. KORHONEN STATED THAT THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST MAY NOW BE MUCH WORSE THAN BEFORE THE SADAT INITIATIVE. KORHONEN ALSO EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE UN PEACE-KEEPING OPERATION IN LEBANON. HE SAID HE CAN UNDERSTAND ISRAELI SATISFACTION WITH THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE WHICH APPEARS TO BE CARRYING OUT THE TASKS THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ISRAELI TROOPS, NAMELY, PROTECTING ISRAEL FROM PLO ATTACK. KORHONEN SAID HE HAD RECENTLY ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINISTER VAYRYNEN ON A VISIT TO IRAQ. HE SAID THAT DURING THE VISIT THE IRAQIS HAD PRESENTED THEIR WELL-KNOWN EXTREME VIEWS ON ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM BUT HAD BEEN VERY CORDIAL AND HAD MADE NO EFFORT TO BELABOR THE ISSUE DURING THE VISIT OF THE FINNS.

6. AN MFA OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER SORSA ON THIS RECENT RIP TO ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA SAID THAT SORSA HAD RECEIVED A GENERAL IMPRESSION OF OPTIMISM CONCERNING THE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA BUT OF PESSIMISM CONCERNING RHODESIAN PROSPECTS. THE FINNS BELIEVE THAT BOTH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND NYERERE SINCERELY SEEK PEACEFUL STEELEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SO THEY CAN CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPMENT. THE FINNS HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE TWO

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AFRICAN PRESIDENTS THAT WALVIS BY REMAINS THE ONLY DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN THE NAMIBIA SITUATION. AMBASSAODR LEONARD NOTED THAT WITH THE RECENT APPARENT ACCEPTANCE BY SOUTH AFRICA (WITH A FEW RESERVATIONS) OF THE WESTERN CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSALS, THE QUESTION NOW IS SQUARELY UP TO SWAPO. LEONARD SAID WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH FRONTLINE STATES TO PUT ALL POSSIBLE PRESSURE ON SWAPO TO ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AND MOVE FORWARD, AND WE WILL ALSO BE ASKING

OTHER GOVERNMENTS SUPPORTING SWAPO, INCLUDING NORDIC COUNTRIES, TO BRING THEIR INFLUENCE TO BEAR. KORHONEN SAID FINLAND HAS A PREFERENCE FOR COMMUNICATING UNOFFICIALLY WITH SWAPO ON THESE MATTERS. CONCERNING RHODESIA, THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD BEEN POSITIVE ABOUT THE US ROLE WHEREAS PRESIDENT NYERERE HAD BEEN CRITICAL OF THE UK AND US FOR NOT GOING FURTHER IN MEETING PATRICOTIC FRONT POSITIONS.

7. THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE CONSULTATIONS FOCUSED ON THE FORTHCOMING SSOD. JOHN HIRSCH OF THE US MISSION TO THE UN JOINED THE AMERICAN SAIDE FOR THE AFTERNOON SESSION. HIRSCH DESCRIBED THE RESULTS OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED PREPCOM FIVE MEETING. HE SAID THERE REMAIN DEEP DIFFERENCES AMONG THE REGIONAL GROUPS AND MAJOR STATES ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE FORTHCOMING SSOD AND OUTLINED THE MAJOR AREAS OF DIFFERENCE, ESPECIALLY IN THE PROGRAM OF ACTION AND MACHINERY SECTIONS. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE PROSPECTS FOR THE SSOD, AMBASSADOR RAJAKOSKI, WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FINNISH DELEGATION AT THE SSOD, SAID THE FRENCH POSITION WILL BE A KEY FACTOR IN THE CONFERENCE. RAJAKOSKI UNDERSCORED THE GENERAL PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SPECIAL SESSION IF IT IS ABLE TO REALIZE ITS HOPE OF GIVING A NEW IMPETUS TO DISARMAMENT.

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8. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THE CONSULTATIONS CONSTITUTED AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE IMPORTANT BACKGROUND AND PERSPECTIVE ON GENERAL US VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES TO RANKING MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY. PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS WITH THE FINNS PRIOR TO NEXT MONTH'S UN SSOD. END COMMENT.
RIDGWAY

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